IN THE CLAIMS

Please allow the amendment of claims 1, 3, and 11 as indicated to put the claims in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 (Currently Amended)   A method of remotely generating a unique printer pass code recognizable by a printer and enabling a printer feature, the method comprising:

providing a unique character string for a printer;

mathematically manipulating the unique character string to generate a printer specific pass code, wherein the printer specific pass code is differentiated from the unique character string;

communicating the pass code to the printer; and

enabling a previously disabled printer feature following the successful validation of the pass code by the printer.

Claim 2 (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein providing a unique character string for a printer comprises locating a printer serial number resident within the printer.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 2, wherein locating a printer serial number resident with[[ ]]in the printer comprises locating a printer serial number programmed into a digital controller during manufacturing of the printer.

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Claim 4 (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein providing a unique character string for a printer is conducted by a user of the printer and wherein mathematically manipulating the unique character string comprises entering the character string into a computer program which receives the character string as input, conducting mathematical manipulations on the character string, and outputting the result as the pass code.

Claim 5 (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising entering the pass code into the printer.

Claim 6 (Original)   The method of claim 5, wherein the successful validation of the pass code is conducted subsequent to entering the pass code into the printer and further comprises the printer conducting a mathematical manipulation similar to the one used to generate the pass code and comparing the result to the pass code entered into the printer to see if the two codes correspond.

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

Claim 8 (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein mathematically manipulating the unique character string comprises conducting a series of mathematical operations on the character string.

Claim 9 (Original)   The method of claim 8, wherein mathematically manipulating the unique character string further comprises truncating the result of the series of mathematical operations on the character string.

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Claim 10 (Original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising providing the pass code to a customer in return for the customer performing a desired action.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented)   A printer pass code system, for remotely generating a unique printer pass code recognizable by a printer and enabling a printer feature, the system comprising:

a unique character string assigned to a printer;

a manipulation algorithm for mathematically manipulating the unique character string to generate a printer specific pass code, wherein the printer specific pass code is differentiated from the unique character string;

a verification module configured to validate the mathematically manipulated character string as a pass code;

a feature enablement module configured to enable a previously disabled printer feature following the validation of the pass code by the verification module, wherein the printer feature remains enabled.

Claim 12 (Original)   The system of claim 11, wherein the unique character string comprises a printer serial number resident within the printer.

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Claim 13 (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 12, wherein the printer serial number resident within the printer comprises a printer serial number programmed into a digital controller of the printer during manufacturing of the printer.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 11, wherein the manipulation algorithm is embodied in a computer program which is configured to receive the unique character string as input, conduct mathematical manipulations on the character string, and output the result as the pass code.

Claim 15 (Original)   The system of claim 11, wherein the printer is configured to receive entry of the pass code by a user.

Claim 16 (Original)   The system of claim 15, wherein the verification module is located within the printer and is configured to receive the pass code and to conduct a mathematical manipulation similar to the one used to generate the pass code and to compare the result to the pass code entered into the printer to see if the two codes correspond.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented).   The system of claim 11, wherein the manipulation module is configured to encode a selected printer feature into the pass code and wherein the feature enablement module is configured to enable a previously disabled feature of the printer encoded in the pass code by the manipulation module.

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Claim 18 (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 11, wherein the mathematical

manipulation module is configured to conduct a series of mathematical operations on the unique

character string.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 18, wherein the mathematical

manipulation module is configured to truncate the result of the series of mathematical operations

on the unique character string.

Claim 20 (Original)   The method of claim 11, further comprising a feature of the printer that is

accessible to a customer only with the use of the pass code.

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